



## Los Angeles County Regional Park And Open Space District

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February 17, 2015

The Honorable Board of Directors  
County of Los Angeles  
Regional Park and Open Space District  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE SPECIFIED EXCESS FUNDS  
AVAILABLE TO THE SECOND SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT  
TO THE MOUNTAINS RECREATION AND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY  
AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF A GRANT TO  
THE LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD LAND TRUST FOR  
THE WASHINGTON AVE TOT LOT PROJECT  
(SECOND DISTRICT)  
(3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate an amount not to exceed \$100,000 in unspent Specified Excess Funds, available to the Second Supervisorial District, for a grant to the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust for the development of a park at Washington Avenue.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Find the proposed Washington Avenue Tot Lot Project categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the Project.
2. Allocate an amount not to exceed \$100,000 in unspent Specified Excess Funds, available to the Second Supervisorial District, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for a grant to the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust for the Washington Avenue Tot Lot Project.
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant to the Los Angeles

Neighborhood Land Trust after the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority assigns its right to apply to the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust and when applicable conditions have been met; and to administer the grant as of the date of award and pursuant to guidelines in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise, funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate an amount not to exceed \$100,000 in unspent Specified Excess Funds, available to the Second Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) for a grant to the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LANLT) for the proposed Washington Avenue Tot Lot Project (Project).

The Project involves development of a park, including installation of play equipment, splash pad, paving, fencing, construction of a new public restroom, and planting of trees and shrubs. The total estimated project cost is \$700,000. The recommended Specified Excess Funds will be supplemented by a grant from the First Five L.A. fund in the amount of \$600,000.

MRCA, which is the designated recipient of Specified Excess Funds for projects along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, will assign its right to apply for the recommended funds to LANLT.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), in his capacity as Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, be authorized to award a grant, after MRCA assigns its right to apply to LANLT and when applicable conditions have been met. Applicable conditions include grantee qualifications, consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and grantee agreement with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the projects, if applicable. It is further recommended that the Director be authorized to administer the grant pursuant to the Procedural Guide previously approved by the Board.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The proposed recommendations further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) by enhancing health-promoting activities in the Second Supervisorial District.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Sufficient appropriation for the grants in the amount of \$100,000 is budgeted in the Second Supervisorial District's portion of Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD) Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. MRCA and LANLT each meet this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds

available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended Excess Fund grants will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Second Supervisorial District for Specified Projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director would be authorized to award grants to the various grantees when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

On June 2, 2009, the Board approved the Procedural Guide for governing the administration of RPOSD grants. The Procedural Guide will also appropriately govern the administration of the recommended additional grants.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

All projects funded by RPOSD are required to comply with CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. The County is the lead agency for the proposed Project.

The proposed Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The Project, which consists of development of a park, including installation of play equipment, splash pad, paving, fencing, construction of a new public restroom, and planting of trees and shrubs., is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15303(e) and 15304 (a)(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 3(b), and 4(a)(c) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the Project provides for installation of small new structures, minor alterations to land, and new landscaping.

The proposed Project will not involve the removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees. Additionally, the proposed Project is not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the proposed Project's records.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009 only if all applicable conditions of the grant have been met. The Project Agreement has been approved as to form by County Counsel.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

The recommended actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by RPOSD. The recommended projects will promote healthy activities in public spaces in the Second Supervisorial District.

**CONCLUSION**

Please return one adopted copy of this action to the Chief Executive Office, Facilities and Asset Management Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney".

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JB:WRO:tb

c: Interim Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors